

Message Text

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44

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AID-01 SS-07 AF-04 NSC-06 ISO-00 /022 W

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R 031600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6486

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ZURICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0828

CODEL DIGGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES)

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS

REF: STATE 126851; LIBREVILLE 0803 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES CODEL'S VISIT AND OFFERS FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING HIS SCHEDULE.

2. SAO TOME INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS -

DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRIEF CODEL ON SUBSTANCE OF LIBREVILLE REFTEL PARTICULARLY PORTION CONCERNING PRO-VISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S (PG) PLANS TO LIMIT INVITATIONS TO JULY 12 INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. IF CODEL ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH PG, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONFIRM HIS ATTENDANCE WITH LIBREVILLE BASED LEADERS. ON THE OTHERHAND, IF CODEL HAS NOT YET CONTACTED PG WE WOULD WISH TO SECURE INVITATION, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT FOR HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF SEVERELY LIMITED FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND. DR. TROVOADA

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AND OTHER LEADING PG MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY ON THE ISLANDS

FOR ELECTION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO LIBREVILLE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JULY 11 OR 12. WE CAN, HOWEVER, PASS MESSAGES TO THEM VIA RADIO.

3. PRESIDENT BONGO AND GABON -

WE UNDERSTAND SAO TOME PG PLANS INVITE BONGO TO INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES DURING WHICH CODEL WOULD OF COURSE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH GABONESE PRESIDENT. NONETHELESS, WE ARE CERTAIN BONGO WILL WISH TO OFFER CODEL HIS OWN HOSPITALITY PLUS OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF GABON. WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT HOWEVER CODEL'S FINAL SCHEDULE WORKS OUT AT LEAST A FULL WORKING DAY MIGHT BE ALLOWED FOR LIBREVILLE STOP-OVER.

4. A) CODEL'S SCHEDULE -

LIBREVILLE AIRLINE AGENCIES UNABLE TO CONFIRM SCHEDULES FOR SUCH LINES AS AIR MALI AND MAURITANIAN AIRLINES SO IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US FROM HERE TO WORK OUT A FULL SCHEDULE FROM CAPE VERDE TO SAO TOME. SUGGEST HOWEVER ONE OF BEST POSSIBILITIES WOULD BE FOR CODEL TO MAKE CONNECTION WITH RK 520 ON JULY 9. THIS FLIGHT DEPARTS DAKAR AT 0530 AND STOPS BAMAKO (0710), ABIDJAN (0920), LOME (1125), COTONOU (1330), LAGOS (1520) ARRIVING LIBREVILLE 1730. THOUGH THIS IS REGRETABLY LONG AND SLOW FLIGHT, IT DOES OFFER CODEL MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINING. FURTHER ADVANTAGE IS THAT IT WOULD PERMIT CODEL TO SPEND JULY 10 IN LIBREVILLE FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BONGO AND OTHER GABONESE LEADERS.

B) ONLY CURRENT SCHEDULED LINK BETWEEN SAO TOME AND THE MAINLAND IS ONCE WEEKLY SERVICE (FRIDAY) LUANDA/LIBREVILLE/SAO TOME VIA ANGOLAN AIRLINES (TAAG) FLIGHT DT 290. THERE ARE HOWEVER CURRENTLY NO PASSENGER RIGHTS FOR THE LIBREVILLE/SAO TOME PORTION. WITH COOPERATION OF GABONESE, ANGOLAN, AND SAO TOME CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES, WE COULD PROBABLY OBTAIN EXCEPTION FOR CODEL. BECAUSE THIS IS FLIGHT ARRIVING DAY BEFORE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, IT WILL BE HEAVILY BOOKED; THEREFORE, WE WOULD WISH TO HAVE MAXIMUM LEAD TIME TO INSURE CODEL'S RESERVATION. AIR GABON CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR LIBREVILLE/SAO TOME SERVICES BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE OPERATIVE PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE BEST OPTION FOR CODEL WOULD BE TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT IN LIBREVILLE FOR JULY 11. A TWIN-ENGINE CESSNA (OR COMPARAROLE AIRCRAFT) SEATING A MAXIMUM OF 8 PERSONS CAN BE CHARTERED FOR APPROXIMATELY DOLS 2,650 FOR THE TRIP TO SAO TOME AND RETURN. COUNTRYMAN

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